



Strive...
Achieve...
Succeed...
Go Beyond!

Your Lewiston Schools

5/10/21

Message from the Superintendent

February 8th was a rather tough day for me as the Board of Directors officially accepted my retirement as your Superintendent, effective July 1, 2021. I will leave with great appreciation for the 32 years I've spent with the Lewiston School District, the support I've received, the friendships formed, the memories made, and the work that has been accomplished as together we have forged a brighter future for Lewiston's students. Without a doubt, these final eight years as Superintendent have been the most challenging and rewarding of my career.



Dr. Bob Donaldson

THANK YOU, Colleagues and Students

I started my career in Lewiston in 1989 as assistant principal at (then) Jenifer Junior High School, joining a team that not only supported and challenged me, but also shared a passion for doing what is best for kids, building relationships as the foundation for education, and making a difference in the lives of

students. As I progressed to other positions in the District, serving as principal at both Jenifer and Lewiston High School, assistant superintendent and now superintendent, that same kind of passion was never lacking among the colleagues with whom I served. I still enjoy coming to work every day. Visiting campuses, talking to students and staff, reminds me why we are here and recharges my batteries.

THANK YOU, Board of Directors

Over the past eight years, the Board's support has been a constant encouragement as they embraced an ambitious agenda that has positioned the Lewiston School District for continued success, as highlighted by the following major Board milestones:

- Achieved District (system) wide Accreditation through AdvancED in 2017;
- Refocused on long-standing, critical facility needs at a high school campus serving students since 1928, undertaking a careful process to evaluate options and communicating those options to parents and patrons;

- Selected a team of professionals to provide facility assessment and evaluation: Joint Venture LKV/RGU Architects and Beniton Construction;
- Launched a successful bond campaign for construction of a new comprehensive grades 9-12 high school and career technical center;
- Led Board-directed Lewiston High School construction project starting with pre-planning, to 2018 Groundbreaking, and 2020 Ribbon Cutting and grand opening;
- Established a regional Career Technical Center;
- Implemented a new grade configuration for District schools – K-5 elementary; 6-8 middle schools and 9-12 high schools;
- Initiated an intensified focus on grades K-3 literacy outcomes;
- Expanded the District's Kindergarten program to full day;
- Led Board-directed response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the March 2020 Idaho State Board of Education "soft closure" order that shifted Lewiston School District classrooms to remote-only instruction, and
- Prepared a Board-approved COVID-19 response plan to open and operate Lewiston schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

THANK YOU, Parents and Patrons

The Lewiston School District has enjoyed overwhelming community support over the past eight years resulting in patrons voting on March 14, 2017, to approve a \$59.8 million dollar construction bond for the Lewiston High School campus by a margin of 75%.

More recently, the community engaged in a robust dialogue with board members and the administration addressing COVID-19 concerns and the District's plan to open schools for the 2020-2021 school year; and we can all celebrate the outcome. Parents have chosen to send their children to school, attendance has been good, COVID-19 active cases have been closely monitored and reported daily, and Lewiston School District has remained in full operational status every day of the current school year, up to the present.

During the time remaining, I am totally committed to the duties of the office of Superintendent, supporting the Board in whatever way I can with the transition process, and providing leadership as we close out the 2020-2021 school year.

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2021-2022 Goes Digital!

The Lewiston School District's annual Kindergarten Enrollment will be conducted online this year. Parents of children turning 5 years of age by September 1 need to read and follow these instructions in order to complete the process:

ONLINE ENROLLMENT
March 8th-March 26th
Please visit our website at:
www.lewistonschools.net
and click on the
Kindergarten Enrollment Link

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION PLEASE READ:

1. A child must be five years old on or before September 1, 2021 to enroll for kindergarten.
2. The following documents are required for enrollment:

A. The child's original birth certificate from the child's birth state or the eligibility to obtain one within thirty (30) days. Copies of

birth certificates are not accepted.

B. Proof of Residency. Documentation showing the name of parent(s)/guardian(s) and physical home address. Examples: Utility Bill, Rental/Lease/Home Agreement, Cable Bill, City of Lewiston property tax assessment notice, homeowners/renters insurance.

C. An up-to-date copy of the child's immunization record reflecting the following:

- 5 DTaP
- 4 Polio
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 2 MMR
- 2 Varicella (Chickenpox)
- 2 Hepatitis A

A physical examination is strongly encouraged before the child starts school.

SCHOOL PLACEMENT:

The District strives to place students at the school in their home attendance area. If the

home attendance area is full in that grade, the student will then be placed at a different school with lower enrollment numbers and be placed on a waitlist to their attending school. Parents will receive a letter notifying them on the school placement of their kindergartener by the end of April.

SPECIAL NOTICE – Parents enrolling a kindergarten child who have an older child/sibling attending elementary school in Lewiston are encouraged to enroll for kindergarten during registration in March. Failure to do so could result in the District's inability to enroll your kindergarten child in the same elementary school as your other children.

For more information, call Delilah Glenn in the District's student services office, 208.748.3032.



Board/Donaldson Partnership Celebrated

Board members credited Dr. Bob Donaldson's leadership skills and celebrated his impressive accomplishments as they accepted his retirement as superintendent on February 8. Board members acknowledged that the Board/Superintendent partnership during Bob's tenure exceeded all expectations.

"Bob has been an outstanding leader for us," school board President Brad Rice said in a recent Lewiston Tribune article. "He can be firm when he needs to be firm, he can show strength and resolve, but at other times he can empathize with people and show compassion where it's appropriate. It's kind of hard to find leaders that can traverse that kind of range, but he does that well and I think that's a testament to his skills as a superintendent."

President Rice also represented the Board's high regard for Bob's leadership during a 2017 (successful) campaign to have Dr. Donaldson selected as Idaho Superintendent of the Year; noting his:

- Outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in promoting education in the Lewiston School District;
- Rapport with patrons and skill with community relations;
- Professionalism and fiscal management;
- Courage and vision to take on new challenges, and willingness to explore new and better solutions to address existing challenges;
- Four years of patient planning and strategizing, spending countless hours in community meetings, including 57 "cottage meetings," to gain support for the bond campaign for construction of the new Lewiston High School campus.

The Board of Directors conducted a Special Board Meeting on February 24 to interview a candidate for superintendent and will continue to work through the process to select and employ the next Lewiston School District Superintendent of Schools.



This is Your L.I.F.E.
Celebrating a 25 yr Legacy

The Lewiston Independent Foundation for Education (L.I.F.E.) will reach its 25th Anniversary on May 13th. The Foundation board has planned a year-long celebration featuring highlights of the past 25 years, as well as vision and goals for the next 25.

Patrons are invited to share any photos or anecdotes they may have about the Foundation or events it has been involved with over the years. Send items to cgomez@lewiston schools.net.

Staying GREEN from Fall to Spring!

Dr. Kimberly Eimers, Student Services Director

Despite being in the midst of a pandemic, on August 31, 2020, the Lewiston School District opened its doors to over 4500 students for in-person learning, and six months later, the District remains in Green! This has been possible due to diligent adherence to implemented safety protocols and procedures because we know students learn better in face-to-face classroom environments. From Plexiglas® dividers, to gallons of hand sanitizers, to area foggers, district personnel have worked hard every day to ensure students and staff have a clean and safe learning environment. In a year like no other, with social distancing and

face coverings required, classroom teachers and school staff are working tirelessly to incorporate new strategies and methods to deliver effective instruction. Students have been flexible adjusting to new procedures and protocols as well.

Though not untouched by COVID-19, Lewiston School District has been extremely fortunate in that the numbers of positive cases have been low. Positive cases have actually been on the decline since returning from the winter break. The District remains diligent, however, in adhering to the safety protocols that can keep schools in Green through the rest of the year.